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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In a metal capped mirror comprising a stack of dielectric layers of alternating high and low indices of refraction capped with a layer of metal, the improvement comprising a layer consisting of tin oxide to which the metal capping layer is directly adhered for improving adhesion of the metal capping layer to the stack of dielectric layers.

2. (Original) An improved mirror according to Claim 1 wherein said tin oxide layer is disposed at an end of a stack comprising an integral number of pairs of dielectric layers.

3. (Previously Presented) An improved mirror according to Claim 2 wherein all of said stack layers other than said end layer of tin oxide are of materials other than tin oxide.

4. (Original) An improved mirror according to Claim 2 wherein said tin oxide layer is one layer of a pair of dielectric layers disposed at said stack end.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) In a metal capped mirror comprising a stack of dielectric layers of alternating high and low indices of refraction capped with a layer of metal, the improvement comprising a layer consisting of tin oxide to which the metal capping layer is directly adhered for improving adhesion of the metal capping layer to the stack of dielectric layers.

said tin oxide layer being disposed at an end of a stack comprising an integral number of pairs of dielectric layers ,

said tin oxide layer being one layer of a pair of dielectric layers disposed at said

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stack end, and

all of said dielectric pairs comprising a layer of tin oxide.

7. (Previously Presented) An improved mirror according to Claim 1 wherein said layer of metal comprises a continuous uninterrupted end surface of said mirror for preventing light transmission from the mirror in a direction through the stack layers through said mirror end surface.

8. (Currently Amended) In a metal capped mirror comprising a stack of dielectric layers of alternating high and low indices of refraction capped with a layer of metal, the improvement comprising a layer consisting of tin oxide to which the metal capping layer is directly adhered for improving adhesion of the metal capping layer to the stack of dielectric layers,

said tin oxide layer being disposed at an end of a stack comprising an integral number of pairs of dielectric layers,

said tin oxide layer being one layer of a first pair of dielectric layers disposed at said stack end, and

all of said dielectric layers other than said one layer of said first pair of dielectric layers being of materials other than tin oxide.

9. (Previously Presented) An improved mirror according to Claim 1 wherein said metal is of gold.

10. (Previously Presented) An improved mirror according to Claim 8 wherein said metal is of gold.

11. (Previously Presented) An improved mirror according to Claim 1 wherein said metal layer provides an exposed and uncovered outer layer of said stack.

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12. (Previously Presented) An improved mirror according to Claim 8 wherein said metal layer provides an exposed and uncovered outer layer of said stack.